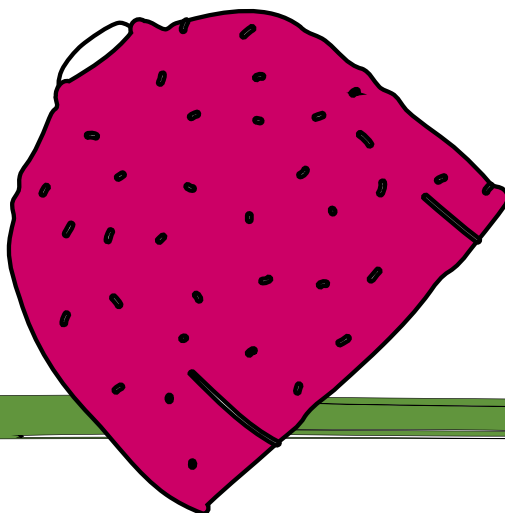
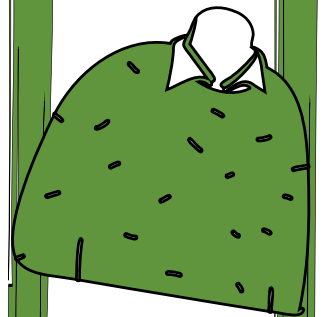
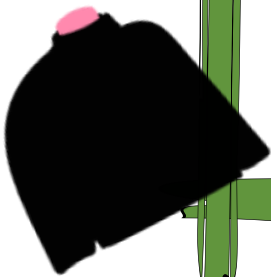
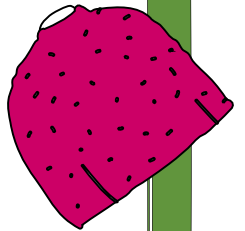
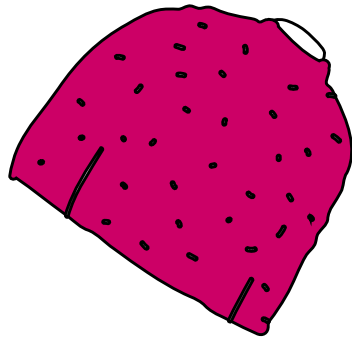




Blooming
Blossoms Trust

Spare a Pair



Spare a Pair Report

The package arrived. Tentatively, cautiously, Emma opened it. She wasn't aware of any order she placed, though there were many orders that needed placing. Her Toby and Sara, aged 3 and 6, desperately needed new undergarments and coats. The days were getting shorter and darker, which meant that the cold was coming too and she was very afraid of that. How could she take two young and growing kids out into the biting frost with thin rain macs? Their last years' coats were of cheap quality and didn't even survive the whole season, she had no choice but to dispose them at the end of the winter even though she couldn't see how she would ever be able to afford new ones. But one can't quite make a child wear a coat that doesn't have a zip, is torn by the elbows, and has the stuffing saying peekaboo all over, right?

The Cost of Living crisis means that our beneficiaries' low-income parents, like Emma, have to make do with very little, being forced to make difficult choices between fuel and food. Our most recent survey reveals that 83% of parents even skip meals in order to feed their children. Other vital necessities like new clothing, shoes or undergarments are unfortunately being left for better times, for when more money will be at their disposal, for when the Crisis will finally end.

But Blooming Blossoms is not one to stand by and let the crisis take over our users' lives. And thanks to the generous grant of £500 from The Alec Dickson Trust, we were able to distribute 120 sets of new underwear for children living in poverty. It also enabled us to obtain additional grants, making it possible for us provide new coats and shoes too. This facilitated 500 brown packages like the one we sent to Emma and her kids.

Emma wrote to us: 'I couldn't believe my eyes. I know that expression is very cliché, but there's no better way for me to describe how I felt. It felt like a warm hug; somebody cared about us and thought about my kids. They will now finally have the much needed underwear and beautiful new coats. A god-send literally. Toby and Sarah were dancing for joy. They were delighted with the purple coats, the pockets and snug fur. How did you know that purple's their favourite colour? Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.'

Blooming Blossoms Trust nurtures disadvantaged children aged 4-16 who face challenges related to poverty, learning disabilities, and social barriers. We provide a safe space for them to develop their innate strengths through afterschool activities and annually support 180 Special Educational Needs (SEN) children. And with your help we are able to help unfortunate children from low income families weather the cost of living crisis.

We firmly believe in the inherent worth and capabilities of every young person and embrace the rich tapestry of diversity that makes each person unique. Our vision centres on creating a safe and inclusive space where young people, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities, are given equal opportunities to grow and thrive. By harnessing their differences and strengths, we foster an environment that encourages self-discovery, self-expression, and personal growth.



Spare a Pair Report

Outputs:

- **500** sets of new underwear distributed to disadvantaged children in hardship
- **300** pairs of shoes distributed to disadvantaged children in hardship
- **300** warm coats distributed to disadvantaged children in hardship
- **4** clothing drives to collect new and gently used coats for disadvantaged children and young people
- **4** pop up shops where essential clothing items will be available for disadvantaged children and young people in financial hardship

Outcomes:

- I. **Improved Self-Esteem and Confidence:** By providing decent clothing, the enhanced the self-esteem and confidence of 500 disadvantaged children, leading to improved social and academic performance. The disadvantaged children will be able to focus better with their school work and attain improved academic outcomes.
- II. **Empowerment:** Through the act of choosing clothing in privacy, children and families were empowered to make choices, leading to improved self-perception.
- III. **Reduced Financial Hardship:** The project reduced the financial hardship experienced by families struggling with the cost of living crisis by supplying essential clothing items.
- IV. **Promotion of Well-Being:** The initiative acknowledges the psychological impact of clothing on self-confidence, contributing to the well-being of the recipients.
- V. **Environmental Sustainability:** By reusing clothing and promoting a circular economy, the project contributes to environmental sustainability and waste reduction.
- VI. **Community-Based Business Model:** The project fosters a community-based business model, potentially inspiring similar initiatives and promoting community involvement.

